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Security Council

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**Letter dated 19 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 16 November 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the violations of the demilitarized zone that were committed by United States and British warplanes in the period from 12 October to 8 November 2002, as shown in the attached table.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter of 26 October 2002 (S/2002/1209, annex), I should like to inform you that in the period from 12 October to 8 November 2002 United States and British warplanes flying from bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) committed 552 hostile violations of our international boundaries. As shown in the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi agencies have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed and hostile aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, violating our international boundaries from Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone, comprised 552 armed sorties in the Basrah, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Karbala', Maysan and Wasit governorates.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on a daily basis as American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes.

3. An AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace provided support to all of the United States and British aircraft that carried out armed and hostile sorties, violating Iraq's airspace by way of the demilitarized zone.

4. From 12 October to 8 November 2002, a total of 18 remotely piloted aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from United States and British bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone.

All of the violations in question were committed by way of the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. One of UNIKOM's primary responsibilities is to monitor such hostile military operations and to report them and endeavour to halt them immediately.

UNIKOM has reported only 5 per cent of these violations. In your report on UNIKOM for the period from 21 March to 15 September 2002 (S/2002/1039), it is stated that UNIKOM reported 278 violations. It identified some of the aircraft that participated in the violations as F-15s, F-16s and A-10s but did not stipulate their nationality. The true number of the United States and British aircraft that violated our national airspace and were observed by the relevant Iraqi authorities was 4,370.

We urge the United Nations Secretariat to provide UNIKOM with systems capable of detecting all of the violations and their source so that it can notify the Security Council to take the necessary measures to halt these infringements forthwith. In paragraph 6 of your report on UNIKOM for the period from 28 March to 4 September 2001 (S/2001/913) it is stated that "[it should be noted] that the mission's inability to identify the States responsible for conducting such flights is in no way to be understood as condoning them". You also state in the report that the United States and the United Kingdom have acknowledged that they are continuing to enforce a no-flight zone in southern Iraq.

I urge you once more to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full, to report these violations to the Security Council through you as soon as they occur and to specify the number and type of United States and British warplanes that violate the demilitarized zone, contravene the Security Council resolutions establishing the zone and commit aggression against Iraq, given that this constitutes State terrorism and wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territorial integrity, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations. I also ask you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt this aggression and ensure that its perpetrators are held fully accountable for it under international law and in accordance with the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## Enclosure

### Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait and by way of the demilitarized zone, 12 October-8 November 2002

| *Date* | *From* | *Time* | *Type* | *Armed sorties* | *Altitude (metres)* | *Speed (km h)* | *Areas overflown* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 October-8 November | Kuwait | 0630-2110 | F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, drone | 552, and 18 drones | 8,000-11,000 | 180-780 | Artawi, Jalibah, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Kut, Lasaf, Najaf, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Nukhayb, Shatrah, Razzazah, Karbala' |